

Washington Horse Racing Commission Policy Statement 2010-02

Public Meetings – Alternative Means to Maximize Member and Public Participation

The Washington Horse Racing Commission (WHRC) views periodic public meeting as an important function of the agency. Public meetings allow commissioners to meet their statutory obligation of regulating and supervising pari-mutuel horse racing and afford licensees, stakeholders, and the public access to the Commission (WAC 260-08-005).

The Commission will publish a schedule of its public meetings for the upcoming year. Public meetings will be held at a time and place to best serve the equine horse racing industry. All members of the industry and the public are encouraged to attend. This policy establishes an alternative way for commissioners and the public to attend and participate in public meeting without having to be physically present at one location.

Commissioners

Effective July 1, 2010, when attendance is not feasible or necessary, an electronic alternative means will be used to conduct public meetings of the WHRC. It will no longer be necessary for commissioners to be physically present at one location in order to conduct a public meeting.

Commissioners may attend any public meeting of the WHRC using the electronic alternative. However, commissioners are encouraged to be physically present at one location when the electronic alternative is not feasible, or when it is necessary to conduct the business of the WHRC. (*Examples include application reviews, disciplinary hearings, matters related to rule adoption, and taking public comments on important issues related to regulation of pari-mutuel wagering or the training or development of the equine industry.*) For all public meetings the Chair or designee should attend physically in order to better preside over the meeting. Whenever the physical presence of a commissioner is necessary authorized travel expenses are approved. Whether a commissioner is physically present or attends electronically, a commissioner will be considered “present” at a meeting, and is eligible to vote.

Public Participation

Licensees, stakeholders, or members of the public can fully participate in public meetings of the WHRC by using the electronic alternative. The WHRC may make the electronic alternative available to the public at no cost. Information on how and when to attend a public meeting of the WHRC will be noted on the agency’s web page, by clicking on ‘Commission Meetings Minutes and Next Meeting Agenda.’

Adopted by the Washington Horse Racing Commission
June 11, 2010